

fine-tuning the underlying language and providing a modest boost to the funding for research and development. Importantly, my legislation will provide States the technical assistance necessary to maintain security for the nation's dams.

Specifically, the program will:

Ensure new and existing dams are safe through the development of technologically and economically feasible programs and procedures for national dam safety hazard reduction;

Encourage acceptable engineering policies and procedures to be used for dam site investigations, design, construction, operation and maintenance, and emergency preparedness;

Encourage the establishment and implementation of effective dam safety programs in each State based on State standards;

Develop and encourage public awareness projects to increase public acceptance and support of State dam safety programs;

Develop technical assistance materials for Federal and non-Federal dam safety programs;

Develop mechanisms with which to provide Federal technical assistance for dam safety to the non-Federal sector; and

Develop technical assistance and encourage appropriate security for the nation's dams.

I want to point out that this program is truly a State-based program—because that is where the money goes and is used. The money in this program is not swallowed up in some nameless and faceless bureaucracy here in Washington, the money goes directly to the States.

It is also important to note that this program does not provide funds for constructing or fixing dams due to the cost of such activities. These funds are to identify and educate the public and dam owners about dam safety and conduct necessary research to ensure dams are as safe as possible.

For less than \$10 million, this program authorizes:

Provides \$6,000,000 per year 2003–2006 National Dam Safety Program;

Provides \$500,000 per year for National Dam Inventory;

Provides \$500,000 per year for Dam Safety Training;

Provides \$1,500,000 per year for research; and

Provides \$600,000 per year for staff.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind everyone how important dams are to this country. Dams provide hydroelectric power to almost every State in the union, habitats for fish, birds, and other animals, recreational activities from bird watching to water sports, flood control and are a source of water. Maybe because of the positive impacts of dams more and more people are building downstream from dams. This is not dangerous, as long as the dams are monitored and maintained.

For these reasons, and in memory of the lives lost one hundred and thirteen years ago in Johnstown, I ask that the House favorably consider this legislation.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 146 IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN TENNESSEE

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, my home state of Tennessee's nickname "The Volunteer State" dates all the way back to the War of 1812 when thousands of Tennesseans enlisted in response to Governor Willie Blount's call for volunteers. The volunteer spirit that moved so many Tennesseans to service then remains alive and well in our beautiful state almost 200 years later.

Today, the volunteer spirit is manifested by the thousands of Tennesseans in the armed services and by the countless civilian volunteers from Memphis to Bristol and Chattanooga to Clarksville.

One such group of Tennessee volunteers is American Legion Auxiliary Unit 146 in Lawrence County. I am proud to commend them today for the fine work they do.

From children to veterans, Unit 146 exemplifies the volunteer spirit, that call to help the community, to ease the pain of those less fortunate and to lift us all by their example of caring and compassion.

For "Make a Difference Day" this year, Unit 146 made yarn angels for every patient in local nursing homes and assisted living centers.

Last Christmas, they made and filled stockings, complete with an American flag, for veterans at the VA hospitals in Nashville and Murfreesboro.

Together with their local American Legion post, they host bingo games for veterans in VA hospitals.

Each year, Unit 146 remembers our veterans and the heroes who gave their life for their country by participating in Memorial Day ceremonies and Veterans Day parades.

In addition to supporting our veterans, the unit looks to the future by supporting important programs for children and youths. Throughout the year they pass out flags, Halloween safety brochures, pamphlets on how to say "No" to drugs and suicide prevention books.

Unit 146 provides their local sheriff, the Tennessee Highway Patrol and their hospital's emergency room with stuffed animals and coloring books to ease the pain for traumatized children.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 146 truly represents the best of the volunteer spirit in the Volunteer State.

I commend them for the fine work they do throughout the year. Their acts of goodness are a common thread in our state running all the way back to 1812 when Tennessee first needed volunteers to come to the assistance of her people. Their acts of kindness touch all and spawn other acts that will keep that

thread strong for the next 200 years and well beyond.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the "National Hospital Week" (NHW). This year, the theme is "Where Miracles Happen Every Day". That theme portrays the uniqueness and necessity of the field of healthcare. This period of time will recognize and honor health care professionals, volunteers, and other health professionals for their continued dedication to healing our communities. The celebration of National Hospital Week began in 1921. A magazine editor developed an idea to place more information about hospitals in communities to help erase public fears and uncertainties about healthcare at that time. Since NHW's origination, it has developed into the nation's largest health care event.

This prestigious event is sponsored by the American Hospital Association (AHA). The AHA has been in existence since 1899. It started as an association of Hospital superintendents with a mission to facilitate discussion among hospital administrators. Overtime, its members and mission has developed into a membership which embodies all health care workers and a mission that stresses leadership in public policy, representation and advocacy, and services. Today, the AHA focuses on enhancement of health status, health promotion, ongoing care and rehabilitation of patients, education, research, and that all these activities are conducted with an overriding concern for the values and dignity of patients.

As I stated earlier, I am an advocate of this celebration. This week will help us to focus on universal health coverage by allowing health care workers across our nation to share ideas and thoughts on the coverage issue and others. In a time of state budget cuts and Medicaid cuts, this week will display the need for appropriate funding of the health care system. In the past year in Illinois, hospitals grappled with Medicaid funding cuts of \$340 million. Nursing homes in Illinois dealt with Medicaid funding cuts of \$170 million.

Additionally, this week will help us attack the issue of health care access as grass roots discussions take place and solutions are developed from individuals at the fore front of health care.

In the 7th Congressional District, there are twenty-five community health centers, twenty-three hospitals, three veteran hospitals, and four medical schools. These institutions help sustain my district. I urge my colleagues and constituents to join me in this celebration which is vital to the health of our Nation.